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LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 849 (1993) concerning the situation in Abkhazia, the Republic of Georgia.

In pursuance of paragraph 2 of that resolution I dispatched a planning team to the conflict area on 19 July 1993. The team returned to New York on 27 July 1993 and shortly I shall submit a report to the Council on its findings together with my conclusions and recommendations.

In the meantime, representatives of the parties to the conflict together with the Russian Federation as facilitator signed an agreement on 27 July 1993, under which a cease-fire took effect on 28 July 1993. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 849 (1993), I wish to confirm that in my view conditions are now such as to permit the immediate deployment of the United Nations Observers to begin to carry out functions envisaged in the cease-fire agreement.

Pending the submission of my report to the Council in which I will make recommendations concerning their mandate, strength, deployment and other relevant details, I propose to dispatch to the conflict area as soon as possible, subject to your confirming the Council's agreement, an advance team of 5-10 Observers.

I believe that such early deployment of United Nations Observers, which is keenly desired by the Georgian and Russian Governments and has been accepted by the Abkhaz authorities in Gudauta, can serve as a significant confidence-building measure by demonstrating the support of the international community for the cease-fire during its initial delicate stage.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

93-43890 (E) 060893

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